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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Creator God, Source of all that is, that has been, and that is yet to be.

We begin this new day with gratitude and thanksgiving for in You we live and move and have our being. Thus acknowledging our dependence on You, we can do no other than to thank You for our very lives and for the multiple blessings that come to us both as a nation and as individuals.

Knowing that You count us as Your precious children, we are bold to ask Your grace and further blessing on this new day, which is like no other day, for this day has not yet been lived. Enable each of us then, and in particular the women and men of the United States Senate, to live this day with the sure knowledge that Your presence is alive within us and Your Spirit is actively engaged in guiding us.

Touch our hearts that we may act in love. Touch our minds that we may act in wisdom. Touch our souls that we may act with tolerance. Touch our eyes that they may see Your will with clarity. Touch our ears that they may listen with understanding. Touch our tongues that they may speak with integrity.

And so, O God, on this new day, in these troubled times, let each one of us and especially these, our Nation's leaders, assume our responsibilities with courage, good hope and an abiding faith in You, our protector and preserver. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will be in a period of morning business to allow Senators to make statements. Yesterday, along with Members from both sides of the aisle, we had the honor to lead a Senate delegation to Houston for the memorial service for the *Columbia* astronauts. It was a touching and fitting tribute to those proud pioneers, to those proud heroes, and today we continue to grieve along with their families and their friends—many of them we had the opportunity, as a delegation, to visit with yesterday.

Later today, the Senate will adopt a resolution that will express the Senate's gratitude and appreciation for these heroes. A rollcall vote is expected on that resolution at approximately 12:15 or 12:30 today.

Today, by previous consent, the Senate will begin debate on the nomination of Miguel Estrada to be a circuit judge for the DC court. Debate will begin at 2:15. I know a number of Senators are prepared to come to the floor to debate and discuss this nomination. I hope that we can, after a full debate, reach an agreement as to when the Senate can vote on that particular nomination. I will be working with the Democratic leader in an effort to find a time for that vote to occur.

As a reminder, the Senate will be in recess from 12:30 to 2:15 today for the weekly party caucuses to meet.

Finally, this week, the Senate will need to act on another continuing resolution. I anticipate that we will receive a continuing resolution tonight or to-

morrow morning from the House. I am unaware of any requests for a rollcall vote, and we may be able to clear that continuing resolution by consent when it arrives.

I thank all Members.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a couple of questions for the majority leader. Does the leader expect a vote on the resolution that is before the Senate today?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I believe at this point we plan a rollcall vote between 12:15 and 12:30.

Mr. REID. The other question I have for Members is this. I spoke to the leader earlier this morning. There are a number of people who did not go to the memorial service yesterday and are going to go to one at the National Cathedral tomorrow. Does the leader expect any votes in the morning?

Mr. FRIST. No. In response to the question, we will be in session tomorrow. There are a number of memorial services that have been conducted over the last 3 days and will continue through the week. Out of respect, we did close down yesterday so that a number of people could go to Houston.

Tomorrow the Senate will be in session. We expect no rollcall votes, but we will be in session. We can talk about what time to come in tomorrow morning, but I think we will be in until about 12 noon tomorrow, and we will not be in for the remainder of Thursday or Friday.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have one additional question. We are in morning business now until 12:30, or whenever the leader calls for the vote. I am wondering—because yesterday it got a little awkward—if we can have an agreement that the time would alternate—one Republican, one Democrat, back and forth. That way people have an idea of what to do when they come here. If there are two Republicans here

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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